

	<b>LOS LUNAS POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>		
	OPERATIONS	NUMBER: OPR.01.01(H)	EFFECTIVE DATE: December 21, 2011
	SUBJECT: Piranha/ Terminator Tire Deflation Device		REVIEW DATE: July 20, 2015
	AMENDS/ SUPERSEDES:		NMSA:
NMMLEPSC STANDARDS:		APPROVED BY CHIEF OF POLICE NAITHAN G. GURULE  Signature	

## I. Purpose

The Piranha and Terminator are law enforcement tools, that have been developed by StopTech, Ltd., to assist law enforcement agencies in preventing vehicle pursuits.

## II. Policy

The Piranha and Terminator are “pursuit prevention” device for use on a stationary target vehicle. If the target vehicle is moved and the tire rides over Piranha or Terminator, it will result in tire deflation quickly, generally, in approximately five seconds. Potential uses could include any situation when the target vehicle is stationary, such as warrant service, SWAT situations, stake-out of stolen vehicle, or vehicle check point areas.

A. The **Piranha** is 3 ½ inches (8.9cm) in length and weighs 5.2 ounces (147g). Piranha is comprised of the following components and sub-assemblies:

1. One (1) black polypropylene SHROUD which covers the quills and allows safe handling.
2. Two (2) Teflon® coated hardened steel QUILLS; 3/8 inch (.95cm) in diameter and 2 inch (5.08cm) in length oriented in the cartridge and secured perpendicular to the base.
3. One (1) glass polypropylene CARTRIDGE to which the shroud is secured and which holds the quills in place.

4. One (1) 3 5/16 inch (7.94cm) ABS plastic BASE into which the cartridge is inserted.
  5. Two (2) polymer END CAPS which hold the cartridge in the base.
  6. Four (4) fastening SCREWS to secure end caps.
- B. The **Terminator** is 2 feet (61cm) in length and weighs 2 pounds (.91kg) Terminator is comprised of the following components and sub-assemblies:
1. Seven (7) black polypropylene SHROUDS, to allow easy handling and camouflage to the surface.
  2. Seven (7) Teflon® coated hardened steel QUILLS; 3/8 inch (.95cm) in diameter and 2 inches (5.08cm) in length.
  3. Seven (7) glass polypropylene CARTRIDGES, keyed for fail proof installation.
  4. Twenty-four (24) inch (61cm) ABS plastic BASE.
  5. Two (2) rollover END CAPS, facilitate proper deployment.
  6. One (1) LOOP connector for attaching to cord reel or lanyard.
  7. Two (2) Fastening SCREWS.
  8. Accessories:
    - a. Reusable nylon SLEEVE.
    - b. CORD REEL with 80 feet (24m) of 150 pound (68kg) test, woven polyester line.
    - c. LANYARD with 5 foot (1.5m) cord.
  9. Two WARNING LABELS appear on each Terminator.

### **III. Before Deploying Piranha or Terminator**

- A. Safety Considerations:

1. In addition to the product label warnings, ALWAYS keep the following important safety considerations in mind when using Piranha or Terminator:
  - a. RESTRICT PEDESTRIANS. Bystanders, observers and other pedestrians in the surrounding area are especially vulnerable to injury if they are struck by a vehicle.
  - b. NEVER deploy Piranha or Terminator with pedestrians in the immediate vicinity.
  - c. NEVER use Piranha or Terminator on vehicles with fewer than four wheels. Vehicles such as motorcycles and 3-wheeled ATVs are less stable and persons driving these vehicles are more likely to lose control when their tires deflate.
  - d. ONLY deploy Piranha or Terminator when you have a safe location to observe the target vehicle. You could be struck if suspects unexpectedly swerve, stop, or lose control of their vehicle. You must be able to safely observe the target vehicle and other traffic.
  - e. CONSIDER that the driver may attempt to continue operating the target vehicle after deployment of Piranha or Terminator. Vehicles with one or more deflated tires may still be operated. In this event, the driver may lose control of the vehicle while attempting to operate it with one or more deflated tires, potentially endangering you, pedestrians and other motorists.

B. Tactical Considerations:

1. What is the likelihood that the person approaching the target vehicle will see Piranha or Terminator and how might the person react?
2. If detection of Piranha or Terminator is a concern, then placement should be on the passenger side of the vehicle.
3. Multiple Piranha or Terminators may be used in situations where the vehicle could be moved either backward or forward.
4. After deploying Piranha or Terminator, position yourself in a safe location away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and the deployed Piranha.

#### **IV. Deploying Piranha or Terminator**

- A. To deploy Piranha or Terminator, the following guidelines apply:
  - 1. Piranha or Terminator may be deployed on paved surfaces, soft ground, gravel or sand surfaces.
  - 2. Place Piranha or Terminator approximately 6 inches (15cm) from the target vehicle tire.
  - 3. The grooved ABS plastic base must be placed face down against the road surface.
  - 4. If it appears possible that the target vehicle could depart by going forward or backward, be sure to place Piranha or Terminator on each side of the target vehicles' tire(s).

#### **V. After Deploying Piranha or Terminator**

- A. If Piranha or Terminator was struck by any vehicle:
  - 1. Refer to reload instructions included with each Piranha and Terminator.
  - 2. Contact StopTech, Ltd. at 513 202 5500 to order a Piranha or Terminator Hit Kit if no replacement cartridges are available.
- B. If Piranha or Terminator was not struck by any vehicle:
  - 1. Inspect Piranha or Terminator for damage.
  - 2. Return Piranha or Terminator to your selected storage area for the next deployment situation.

#### **VI. CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

- A. With reasonable care, your Piranha or Terminator will be ready to aid you in preventing a pursuit that creates a hazard to you and the public. Follow these simple guidelines to ensure the Piranha or Terminator is ready for use:
  - 1. Keep Piranha or Terminator separate from other equipment to prevent inadvertent contact that could damage Piranha, Terminator or other equipment.

2. Store Piranha or Terminator in a location that is easily accessible for rapid deployment.

## **VII. CONCLUSION**

Piranha and Terminator can allow you to prevent a pursuit before it starts; thus avoiding the potential of a pursuit that could endanger you, the public, and the fleeing suspect. These tools are designed for pursuit prevention not pursuit intervention. Officers will follow the department's pursuit policy regarding pursuits located in OPR 01.01.